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World Summit on Sustainable Development

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its organizational and fourth sessions, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development approved the provisional agenda (A/CONF.199/1) and proposed organization of work for the Summit (see A/CONF.199/3). The provisional rules of procedure for the Summit (A/CONF.199/2), as approved by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its organizational session and by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/226, are also submitted to the Summit for adoption. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned documents.

I. Election of officers

2. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Summit provides that the Summit shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 25 Vice-Presidents, an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. Those officials should be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the Bureau composed in accordance with rule 11. The Summit may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

3. Rule 11 provides that the Summit will have a Bureau composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice, the Presidency of the Summit would go to the host country. The 25 Vice-Presidents would be distributed according to the following geographical pattern: five representatives from African States, five from Asian States, five from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and five from Western European and other States.

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II. Adoption of the rules of procedure

4. The Summit will have before it for adoption the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.199/2) approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/226.

III. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Summit will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda (A/CONF.199/1) approved by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its fourth session.

IV. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee

A. Organization of work

6. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its fourth session (see A/CONF.199/4, chap. X, decision 2002/PC/6), it is proposed that the Summit organize its work around 16 plenary meetings, five of which will be devoted to the general debate open to all member States, and four interactive round tables, at the level of heads of State or Government, organized in parallel with the general debate, on one theme, "Making it happen!". Taking into account the provisions of subparagraph (b) of the above-mentioned decision, four plenary meetings will be held to hear general statements from representatives of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, interested United Nations organs, major non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the Summit, and associate members of regional commissions. In addition, seven plenary meetings will be devoted to organizational matters, partnership events and a multi-stakeholder event. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Summit organize its work around a plenary and one main committee.

B. Allocation of items

7. It is proposed that items 1 to 10 and 14 and 15 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meetings, and that items 12 (Draft plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development) and 13 (Political document) be allocated to the Main Committee. Negotiations on the draft plan of implementation of the Summit and on the political document will be held in the Main Committee, while the general debate, general statements, partnership events and multi-stakeholder event, under items 8 to 10, will be held in plenary meetings, and the round tables, under item 11, will be held under the agreed modalities (see A/CONF.199/1, annotations). Upon the conclusion of its work, the Main Committee will submit a report to the Assembly.

C. General debate

8. The general debate will be held from 2 to 4 September. Each delegation may present one statement during the general exchange of views.

9. It is proposed that a time limit of five minutes be established for statements by representatives of Governments during the debate on 2 to 4 September, and that the same limit be established for statements by representatives of United Nations organs, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, as well as for statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations, during the debate on 29 and 30 August.

D. Round tables on the theme "Making it happen!"

10. Pursuant to decision 2002/PC/6 of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the four round tables at the level of heads of State or Government will be held from 2 to 4 September 2002 in parallel with the general debate, on one theme, "Making it happen!" (for the agreed modalities, see A/CONF.199/1, annotations, item 11).

E. Establishment of the Main Committee

11. The Main Committee will meet from the morning of 26 August to 30 August and, if required, from 2 to 4 September. Its Chairman will be elected by the Summit in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure. In accordance with the provisions of rule 49, the Main Committee will elect its own officers. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Summit, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement of a secret ballot. The Main Committee will be seized with finalizing the draft plan of implementation of the Summit and the political document.

F. Timetable for the work of the Summit

12. A proposed timetable for the work of the Summit is contained in annex I; a proposed timetable for the work of the Main Committee is contained in annex II.

G. Organization of meetings

13. The resources available to the Summit allow for a maximum of four simultaneous meetings in the morning and four in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, subcommittees, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional or interest group meetings only when they are held in place of formal meetings.

14. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Summit may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Summit, the Main Committee may also set up subcommittees and

working groups. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by the Summit service facilities available at the Summit site.

15. With the exception of the general debate on 2 to 4 September, meetings will normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the time scheduled.

V. Credentials of representatives to the Summit: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

16. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Summit and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-sixth session.

17. At the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of China, Denmark, Jamaica, Lesotho, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, the United States of America and Uruguay.

VI. Report of the Summit

18. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and summits, it is recommended that the report of the Summit consist of the decisions of the Summit, a brief account of the proceedings, and a reportorial account of the work of the Main Committee and the action taken in plenary meetings on its recommendations.

Annex I

Proposed timetable for the work of the Summit*

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Week of 26 to 30 August 2002		
Monday, 26 August		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1	Opening of the Summit
	2	Election of the President
	1	Opening statements
	3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: accreditation of intergovernmental organizations
	5	Election of officers other than the President
	6	Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee
	7	Credentials of representatives to the Summit
	7 (a)	Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
	7 (b)	Report of the Credentials Committee
3-6 p.m.	8	Partnership events
Tuesday, 27 August		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Partnership events
3-6 p.m.	8	Partnership events
Wednesday, 28 August		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Partnership events
3-6 p.m.	8	Partnership events
Thursday, 29 August		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Regional implementation
3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.	8	Statements by observers

* All Summit meetings will be held in plenary except for the meetings of the Main Committee (see annex II) and the round tables to be held on 2 to 4 September (see A/CONF.199/1, annotations, item 11).

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Friday, 30 August		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Statements by observers
3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.	8	Statements by observers
Week of 2 to 4 September 2002		
Monday, 2 September		
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	9	Opening statements Statements by States
2-8 p.m.	9	Statements by States
3-6 p.m.	11	Round table
Tuesday, 3 September		
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	9	Statements by States
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	11	Round table
2-8 p.m.	9	Statements by States
3-6 p.m.	11	Round table
Wednesday, 4 September		
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	9	Statements by States
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	11	Round table
3-6 p.m.	10	Multi-stakeholder event
	12	Adoption of the draft plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
	13	Adoption of the political document
	14	Adoption of the report of the Summit
	15	Closure of the Summit

Annex II

Proposed timetable for the work of the Main Committee

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Week of 26-30 August 2002		
Monday, 26 August		
a.m.*	6	Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee
3-6 p.m.	12, 13	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Tuesday, 27 August		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	12, 13	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Wednesday, 28 August		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	12, 13	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Thursday, 29 August		
10 a.m., 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.	12, 13	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Friday, 30 August		
10 a.m., 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.	12, 13	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Week of 2-4 September 2002		
Monday, 2 September		
10 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.	12, 13	If required
Tuesday, 3 September		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	12, 13	If required
Wednesday, 4 September		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	12, 13	Action on all outstanding matters Conclusion of the work of the Main Committee

* The morning meeting of the Main Committee will be held following the adjournment of the organizational part of the first plenary meeting of the Summit.